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SUMMER *Getaways*

INTERNATIONAL INTERIORS
THAI TRAVEL GUIDE
DESTINATION DESIGNS
HOT HOTELS

WIN!
A STAY
FOR TWO IN
THAILAND

SEVENTIES STYLE

Beautiful boho
buys for you and
your home



20

*Shopping
Special*
PAGES OF
MUST-HAVE
ACCESSORIES



A Destination

Let Cities transport you to a magical place with the Flying Carpet coffee table by Duffy London. Made of a glass top with a pixelated Persian rug design which is mounted on a hidden table leg, and a shadow base which completes the floating illusion, this new item is just one of many now available at Cities.

Riyadh KSA:




Prince Muhammad Bin Abdulaziz Road (Tahlia St) next to Roche Bobois

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Dubai UAE:

The Galleria Mall - Jumeirah - Al Wasl Road - Dubai, U.A.E.

W: citiesdubai.com - E: info@citiesdubai.com - T: +971 4 34 34 301

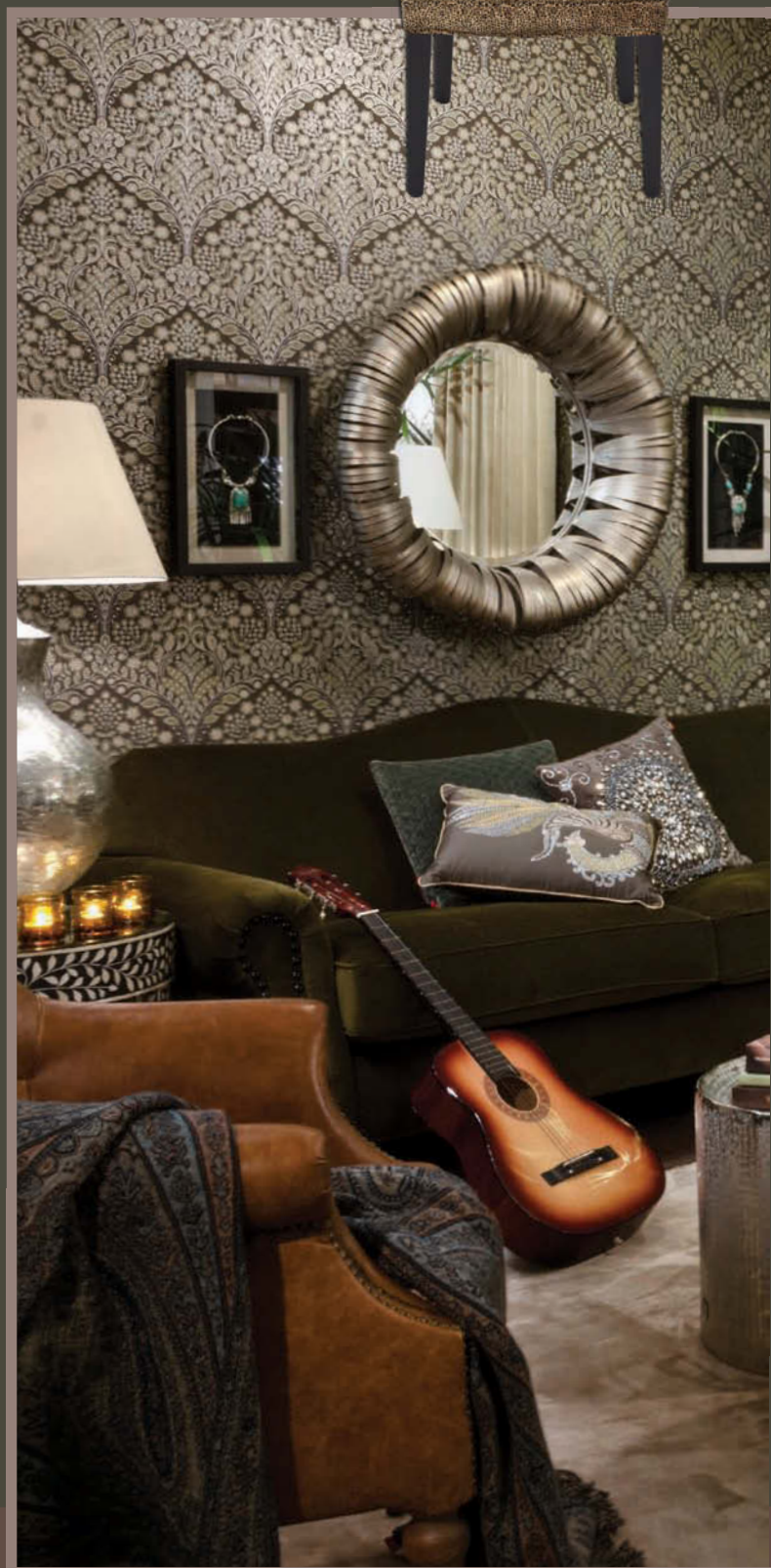
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Summer 2015 Collection

AFFORDABLE LUXURY
VALUE GUARANTEE



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Moroccan Delight

Ethnic goes edgy with a mix of Moroccan influences, damask wallpaper and animal prints in this rock & roll bohemian style from THE One's Summer 2015 collection, featuring home fashion with attitude at great prices.

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CONTRIBUTOR OF THE MONTH

HAMEED HANI

OWNER AND CHIEF DESIGNER, 5MM



An architect by trade and designer by passion, Hameed Hani spent more than six years working in the high-end residential design market, honing his craft at some of London's leading design houses before opening his own consultancy, 5mm.

Born and raised in Baghdad, Hameed moved to the United Kingdom and proceeded to work hard to break into the design industry. His training in architecture, combined with a flair for unique design, allows for an enhanced understanding of space and an ability to manipulate construction details to create evocative interiors that influence mind and body.

Hameed's inspirations include architecture, antique magazine covers from the art deco period, exotic cultures, and detail-loving fashion icons Elie Saab and Alexander McQueen.

www.5mm.co



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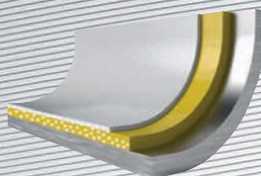
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Accessories



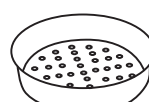
Recipe book



Spoon, Ladle



Measuring cup



Steam container



Yoghurt jars



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REAL HOME
INTERNATIONAL



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SO NOW

IN THIS ISSUE...



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THAILAND
COMPETITION

COVER SHOOT

This spacious family home in Florida has been brought to life by interior designer Dorothee Junkin, who has filled it with statement furniture and bespoke lighting, giving it an international feel.



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DESIGN SALE



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From the Editor Gorgeous Getaways

As the temperature rises, we are all planning our summer getaway, whether it is a staycation over the Eid break or something more substantial and further afield. This issue is packed full of ideas for travel, from inspired buys (P59) to our guide to Thailand (P54), which should inspire you to enter our fab competition (P60) and, as always, we have a lovely international home (P40). Based in Florida, this grand project has been brought to life by interior designer Dorothee Junkin and the results are simply stunning. We also chat to another interior designer, Hameed Hani, who, despite his young age, is taking on exclusive projects in some of London's most sought-after postcodes (P48).

Our local homes are Nazia Husain's timeless traditional Arabian Ranches villa (p28) and Charles Nahhas's colourful Jumeirah home (P34). Make sure you pick up the best trend-led products for you and your home by checking out our news pages (starting on P18), and bring a little boho to your home and wardrobe with the So Now pages (P26).

If you are planning a weekend away, follow us as we take a look inside the luxurious St Regis on Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi (p62), and the simply stunning Chedi in Muscat, Oman (P64).

Enjoy!

Rosalind

ROSALIND



THIS MONTH'S WISHLIST...

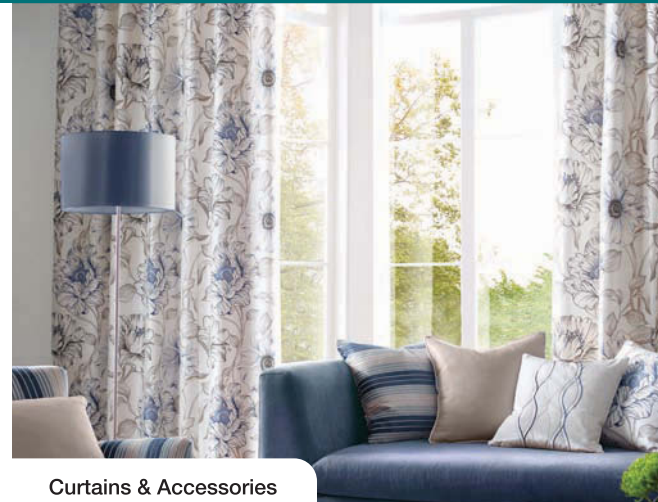
THE DETAILS

1. Flamingo plate, Dhs70 Design Shop by S*uce
2. Zena Presley Jonathan skirt, Dhs850, Harvey Nichols
3. Illume blue coral candle, Dhs138, Bloomingdale's Home
4. Vietr Bianco fantasy tote, Dhs1,400, Braccialini
5. Iitala Sarjaton Varpu mug, Dhs65, Jashanmal
6. Cora floral oven gloves, Dhs100, Lakeland
7. Silver leaf decor, Dhs184, Silsal Design House.

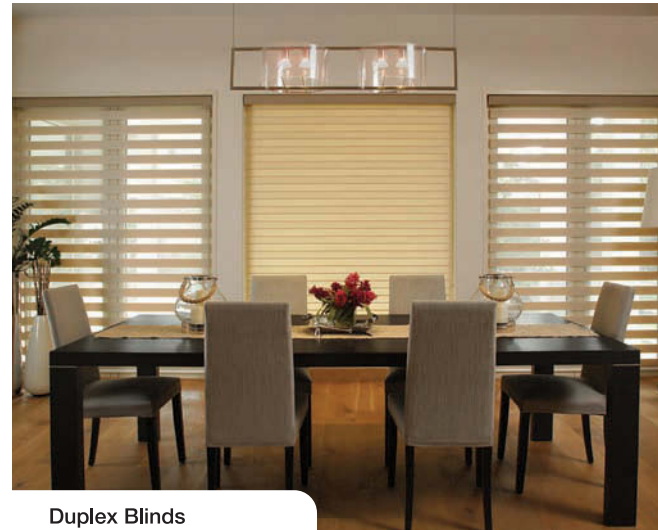
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Updated Classic

Swedish Illustrator Lotta Olsson has created a new pattern for the Sarjaton collection for Iittala. The miniature forest follows the range's theme of modern Finnish traditions and these delicate details from Arctic nature are brought to life in the cute designs.

www.iittala.com



MICRO TREND

Neon Flash

Take colour to the next level with these bright buys.



1. Yellow branch earrings, Dhs125, Vince Camuto
2. Anouk neon patent court shoe, Dhs2,450, Jimmy Choo
3. Little Neon Bag, Dhs90, Bloomingdale's
4. Marylebone journal, Dhs750, Aspal of London.

THIS JUST IN...

ROUNDUP OF THIS MONTH'S NEWS AND BUYS



COFFEE SHOT

Wake up in style with these Maghrebi Arabic coffee cups, Dhs40 each from Silsal Design House.

www.silsal.com



FLOWER POWER

Head to Home R Us for affordable accessories and furniture to spruce up your house. We love this pretty floral lantern, Dhs49.

www.homesrusgroup.com



FRESH FLORALS

Ne'Emah fragrances has recently launched a new perfume, Jadis, meaning Nostalgia in French. The unisex scent is a floral blend featuring rose, orange blossom, vanilla and musk and evokes memories of summer days. Priced at Dh330 for 100ml and available now exclusively from Sephora.

www.neemah.com
www.sephora-me.com



Rainbow Colours

Easily add some colour to your home with Clas Ohlson's latest range of homewares that includes these bright lampshades.

www.clasohlson.com/ae



PURE JOY

Give a colourful candle as a gift this Eid, new from Dubai-based brand Pure Candles. Available in a range of gorgeous scents, the soya wax and natural wick ensures a long-lasting product.

www.purecandlesdubai.com

New Store

Fab fashion brand Banana Republic has just opened a new store in City Centre Mirdiff, which will be stocked full of the label's spring/summer collection such as these pretty patterned trousers.

www.bananarepublic.com



Good Glow

Show your skin some TLC with Clinique's new Turnaround Revitalising range. The five products will leave skin radiant and glowing thanks to the advance technology that works with the skin's own cycle of renewal.

www.clinique.com



BEACH COVER UP

Dubai-based designer, Glam on You, introduces their Resort Collection for 2015, which includes this pretty pink patterned cover up, perfect for summer holiday beach days. The brand has also been picked up by exclusive resort Cheval Blanc Randheli in the Maldives to sell in their concept store.

www.glamonyou.com

THIS JUST IN...



LOVELY LYCHEE

Australian beauty brand MOR Apothecary is now available at Makeup Etc in the Palm Strip Mall in Jumeirah. The collection includes hand creams, soaps, candles, body washes and perfume oils such as Lychee Flower, which all smell as good as they look.

www.makeupetc.ae

Pay as You Go

BookMunch, the quirky café in Al Wasl Square, has launched a summer promotion where guests pay Dhs1 for each minute they spend in the café. This fun, global trend known as Ziferblat (meaning clock face in Russian), offers unlimited food and beverages as all you pay for is your time, with a minimum stay of 15 minutes.

www.bookmunchcafe.com



WOW FACTOR

This Ramadan, S*uce is launching the WOW Ramadan campaign in collaboration with established artist and jewellery designer, Nadine Kansa - designer of Bil Arabi. For the collaboration Nadine has designed a limited edition 12-inch porcelain plate with her traditional Arabic "WOW" calligraphy written in 24k real gold, and adorned with a geometric accent. Available now and priced at Dhs217.

www.shopatsauce.com



MIDAS TOUCH

Add a metallic accent to any outfit with these stand-out Gold Peep-toe pumps, Dhs695 from Bebe.

www.bebe.com

Real Recovery

Wake up to younger, hydrated skin thanks to Kiehl's Midnight Recovery Concentrate, Dhs217. This little bottle packs a punch and will help sort out dry and problem skin.

www.kiehls.com





Tea Time

Indigo Living's spring/summer collection is full of gems such as this pretty white and gold teapot – perfect as a gift or for adding some sophistication to the kitchen. For more on-trend accessories see our pick of the best on page 52.

www.indigo-living.com



CHIC CRYSTAL

Introduce some glamour to your day with Baccarat's Everyday range of cut crystal tumblers, each featuring a different pattern.

www.baccarat.com

COUNTRY GARDEN

Bring the outside in with Villeroy and Boch's new Rose Cottage collection of crockery. We love this cute teacup and saucer, Dhs275, ideal for at-home afternoon tea.

www.villeroy-boch.com



MIX UP A MASTERPIECE

Electrolux has recently introduced a new range of kitchen appliances to its repertoire. The Masterpiece collection consists of a tabletop blender, food processor and immersion blender, making it easy to whip up fabulous meals or smoothies at home.

www.electrolux.com



NEW PIECES

Celebrate Ramadan with Lladro's latest piece, the Hand of Fatima. This artistic reworking is in porcelain and contained in a frame, making it a beautiful addition to any home.

www.lladro.com



Kids Corner

Donkey McPaul pencil holder, Dhs80, Little Things

Je T'aime lightbox, Dhs850, Comptoir 102

Crown hairband, Dhs21, H&M



Colourful Collection

REDTAG has recently introduced a new homeware collection filled with bold patterns and bright prints that will bring a fresh lease of life to any room. From cushions and throws to dining-ware the collection also features precious metal accents.

www.redtag-stores.com

REALLY WILD

Designer Ethan K, who specialises in exotic skins, has just launched his interior collection of sophisticated coloured armchairs and footstools, which include these matte finish purple velvet Alligator chair, Dhs143,227 and Mandarin Ostrich leather and teal velvet footstool, Dhs34,888.

www.ethan-k.com

THIS JUST IN...

BRIGHT ADDITION

Add interest and a splash of eye-catching colour to a hallway with these PolArt coat racks, Dhs3,718 each from Cities.

www.citiesstore.com





Pet House, **POA**,
Marie Laurent



Linked Diamond collar,
Dhs95, **C.Wonder**



Alessi cat food bowls, **Dhs280**,
Bloomingdale's Home

MELLOW YELLOW

Head to Comptoir 102 for some stylish buys for your home (as well as some delicious dining), like this bright yellow India Mahdavi Bishop stool, Dhs5,800. Perfect for a side table in a bedroom or to add a pop of colour to a living room.

www.comptoir102.com

BEACH BAG

Stripes are big this summer so add them easily to your wardrobe with this yellow and white tote, Dhs760 from Patrizia Pepe.

www.patriziapepe.com/ae

Lovely Lights

Bring home a festive lantern this Ramadan thanks to Fiore Rosso's new collection of rustic metal and glass designs that feature intricate arabesque motifs. We love this Sunrise Glow design, Dhs90, as it will add a warm and welcoming glow to any room, especially if two or more are grouped together.

www.fiore-rosso.com

Stylish Serums

Rodial introduces its range of sheer, light serums, which have been designed to be layered on to the skin. Choose the serums based on your skin concerns and apply one after the other in order to create a bespoke treatment for your skin. Available in Harvey Nichols, Mall of the Emirates and Paris Gallery and priced from Dhs125.

www.rodial.co.uk

ORANGE CRUSH

H&M's latest dress collection includes this pretty bright lace dress, Dhs229, which is perfect as a pool or beach cover-up or wear with heels and a statement necklace for a night time look.

www.hm.com/ae



SWEET SCENT

Yankee Candle has a range of new jar candles, perfect for gifts. Choose from a range of welcoming scents, such as Oud Oasis, available now from Tavola.

www.tavolashop.com



Paint Perfect

With the new season comes a new spring/summer collection from Jotun, which includes six colours from the recently launched Jotun Fenomastic My Home range such as this pretty Warm Blush shade.

www.jotun.com



DECO UPDATE

PLANNING ON MAKING SOME CHANGES TO YOUR HOME? THEN READ ON FOR OUR SELECTION OF THE LATEST DECORATION NEWS AND BUYS...

PATTERNED POTS

Store perishable goods in style with these cute Tarateesh containers, new from Silsal Design House. The patterned tops featuring Arabic letters, will add colour to a kitchen.

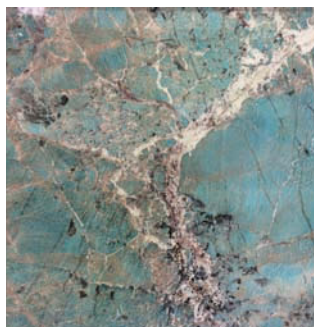
www.silsal.com



ITALIAN EXCELLENCE

Margraf, the Italian marble brand, recently showcased their collection of fine marbles for interiors at Dubai's Index Exhibition. The inlaid marble flooring ranges include this timeless monochrome Pavimento design, perfect for keeping homes stylish and cool all year round.

www.margraf.it



STYLISH STONE

Marmo Classics Stone Factory LLC has introduced new advances in engineered stone with their Tiberio collection. Created from aggregate and natural stone surplus, the tiles are environmentally sustainable and can be used in place of natural stone or as an alternative to ceramic tiles. The range includes over 200 styles and compositions and is priced at Dhs125 per m2.

www.marmoclassic.ae



CONSCIOUS COLLECTION

Choose a carpet with a conscious with FBMI's collection of traditionally hand-woven Afghan designs. All materials are local and natural and 80% of sales go to FBMI employees as a salary that also provides them with training, healthcare and education.

www.fbmi.ae

SUMMER HOME-CARE TIPS FROM JIM WILL FIX IT

As the temperatures soar and Dubai gets ready for the annual exodus, many tenants start to worry about what could go wrong at home while they are away for the summer. Baking weather, empty houses and shoddy plumbing can be a recipe for disaster when a house lays empty, so here are some top tips from British maintenance company, Jim Will Fix It to ensure you return to your home, just as you left it, meaning you have nothing more to worry about than what to pack for your travels!

UTILITIES

It might sound simple but make sure you're turning off all your power points to save electricity. Unplug from the wall sockets any unnecessary electrical equipment - don't unplug the fridge though! Turn off anything on a timer especially alarm clocks, you don't want to drive your neighbours crazy from 6am everyday!

There is an ongoing debate in Dubai as to whether you should turn your AC off when you leave for the summer. Whilst there are no hard and fast rules, we recommend the following:

If you have your AC control on a timer, set it to be on for a couple of hours a day while you are away just to cool down the interior of your home or put it on an automatic setting of around 27 degrees so it comes on temporarily. Leave all doors within your property open to promote airflow and if you plan to only leave one AC operating within a villa, choose an upstairs AC as cooler air naturally falls thereby promoting circulation with the ground floor.

Ask a friend to come and check your home a couple of times a week as this means if you do have any AC issues that develop while you're away, they can be rectified before any major damage occurs.

Of course have your AC's serviced by a company you trust - this will ensure they are running efficiently thereby reducing the chance of breakdowns occurring.

If you have plants or animals that don't like the heat we suggest moving these into one room to save on your DEWA bill.

Leave curtains and blinds drawn in rooms that receive direct sunlight to keep the temperature down.

PREVENT FLOOD DAMAGE

Flooding is one of the most common problems that people return to when leaving their homes empty for a long period of time. The safest way to ensure this doesn't happen to isolate the water to your home and once done run any tap for 10 seconds to de-pressurise the system. That said, be aware that if you have a garden that needs irrigation, the pump may be needed for this purpose too so you would be unable to isolate it in this instance.

If you don't have a garden or other dependent services, turn off your main water supply whilst you are away. This sounds simple but it's the easiest and best way to prevent any water leaks or damage.

If you are unable to isolate the water supply for whatever reason, make sure you switch off all water taps before you go away and have any leaks fixed before you go to avoid a major DEWA bill!

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PAUL & JOE SHOW AS PART OF THE PARIS FASHION WEEK WOMENWEAR SPRING/SUMMER 2015 (PHOTO BY FRANÇOIS DURAND/GETTY IMAGES)

Beautiful Bohemian

CHOOSE A LAID-BACK LOOK OF BOLD PATTERNS, NATURAL ELEMENTS AND NEUTRALS FOR HIPPI-INSPIRED SUMMER STYLE



RUGGI SHOW AS PART OF MILAN FASHION WEEK
WOMEN'S WEAR SPRING SUMMER 2015 (PHOTO BY
PIER MARCO PACCA/GETTY IMAGES)



PAUL & JOE SHOW AS PART OF THE PARIS FASHION WEEK
WOMEN'S WEAR (PHOTO BY FRANCOIS DURAND/GETTY IMAGES)

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12.



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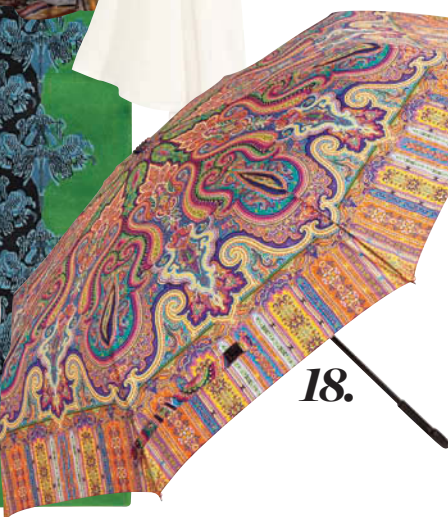
17.



16.



18.



THE DETAILS

1. Michigan ceramic table lamp, Dhs219, Home Centre
2. Sunburst mirror, Dhs3,200, Arteriors at Aati
3. Create a laid-back lounge with the Boho range, from a selection, Home Centre
4. Alphabet mugs, Dhs210 each, Oakroomshop.co.uk
5. Cork sandals, Dhs159, New Look
6. Floppy hat, Dhs169, H&M
7. Rattan lantern, Dhs250, Clas Ohlson
8. Kravet patterned pillow, Dhs2,530, En Vogue
9. Philo sofa, POA, Natuzzi
10. Patterned trousers, Dhs125, New Look
11. Sheperd's crook lantern, Dhs150, Lakeland
12. Woven chair, Dhs830, Flamant
13. Multi-coloured beaded necklace, Dhs10, Parfois
14. Denim bag, Dhs129, Koton
15. Jonathan Saunders Nouveau rug, Dhs6,070 per m2, The Rug Company
16. Patterned crockery set, from Dhs40, Zara Home
17. Embroidered blouse, Dhs199, H&M
18. Paisley patterned umbrella, Dhs119, Zara Home.

Nazia's favourite area in her home is the pool. "My family teases me about spending more time in the gazebo than inside the house! But it's the only place where I am most relaxed."

Picture



Nazia Husain has created a comfortably stylish family home in Arabian Ranches, brimming with Pakistani art and heirloom furniture.

Photography: Aasiya Jagadeesh

Perfect

After living in the Fairmont Residences for almost nine years, Nazia Husain says, the verdure and community vibe of Arabian Ranches was a welcome change for her family. "I really do think that the greatest sound in the world is children's laughter," says the chic mum of two. "At any given moment you will find at least two or three kids from the neighbourhood in my house. I really wish I had not waited so long to move here!"

While the Ranches was a dream community, the house she chose to make a home was a little less so. Everything from the get go was a challenge: from the floors and walls to the lights and moldings. "I had no experience in interior design, but that did not stop me from taking matters into my own hands. Also, I wanted our house to be a real home; comfortable, familiar and beautiful with the atmosphere of a place that was always waiting for me!" Nazia decided not to hire an interior designer, so she had complete control over every aspect of the interiors. "Moreover, I wanted my home to reflect my own taste. I am satisfied that I did everything myself and have ended up with a home I really love."

Clean, classic, versatile and timeless is how Nazia describes her personal style, and it's percolated into her home as well, with its comfortable and clutter-free look. The furniture is solid and classic, designed to stand the wear and tear of a house with kids while colours are neutral to serve as a back drop to Nazia's enviable collection of Pakistani art.

"It is a place of simplicity and calm. I wanted people to walk through the door and look beyond the furniture and at my paintings. Anyone can buy pretty furniture but it's what you do around it that brings it all together." Balancing versatility and functionality were very important to Nazia. "The big questions were would this accommodate my needs? Will it stand the test of time? The interiors of my whole house are in perfect harmony with each other. I always wanted to create an elegant classic space that felt warm and inviting."

Most of the furniture has been custom made by leading Pakistani furniture store, Zamana, who Nazia recommends for their classic, timeless style. "Their quality is outstanding and I love each piece of furniture they made for me. The exceptional craftsmanship means they will be family heirlooms for years to come."

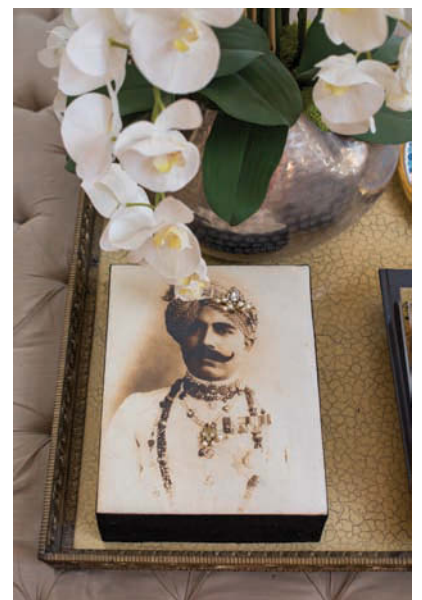
As gorgeous as the interiors are, Nazia's favourite part of the house is outside by the pool. "The outdoors are a full sensory experience; blissfully peaceful where the only distractions are the chirping of the birds and the sound of the water feature by the pool. My family teases me about spending more time in the gazebo than inside the house! But it's the only place where I am most relaxed, where I can put my feet up and enjoy a cup of tea or read a book."

Nazia really enjoyed decorating her daughter's room and transformed it into a princess' abode, pretty in pink. She cheerfully confesses to going all out with the pink chandelier, pretty wallpaper and flowery bedding as her daughter is at an age where she still enjoys girly things.





“I wanted our house to be a real home; comfortable, familiar and beautiful.”



Clockwise: the study with timeless leather and dark-wood furniture; the sophisticated dining room; detail of accessories in the living room; artwork can be seen all over Nazia's home including in the lounge rooms.



“I wanted people to walk through the door and look beyond the furniture and at my paintings.”



Of course the most striking aspect of this home is the art, collected purely by instinct. “If a piece pulls me in and is deserving of a place in my home then I buy it! A painting has to appeal to my senses,” she says. “I don’t really care for the big names. As they say, ‘Art chooses you rather than you choosing it’. My art is my pride and joy and every painting in my home represents a moment in my life.” Nazia is an avid promoter of Pakistani art, especially young talent, and has purchased most of her art from Pakistani galleries; her two favourites are by Jamil Naqsh, a Pakistani Modern Master, recently acquired from a London gallery. “My husband and I were mesmerised from the first look. Both these paintings somehow always manage to put a smile on my face, they are matchless in their perfection!”

Throughout the four-year long decoration process, Nazia had a willing (and able) accomplice in her husband, Abbas, without whose input the house would not look anything

like it does right now. “We worked together as a team,” she says. “My husband was extremely particular about the finishes, especially floors and moldings. That became his domain whereas I took charge of the furnishings. He also designed the pool and I have to say, he did a great job!”

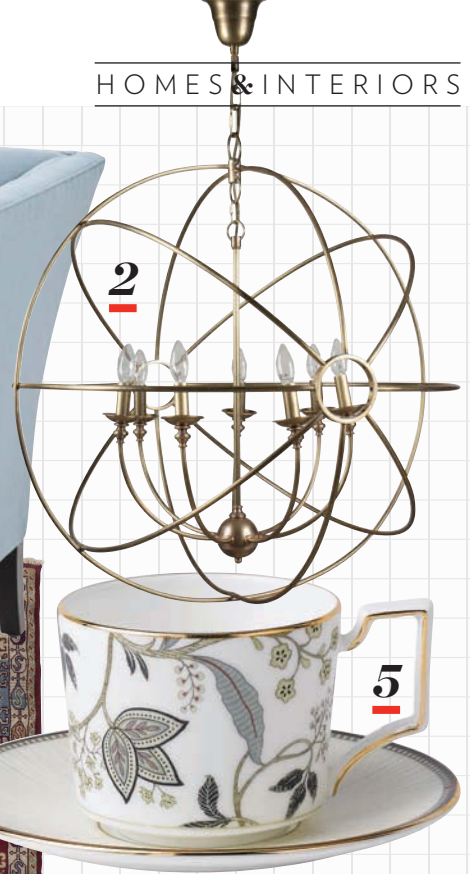
It has taken almost four years for our house to look the way it does now, but Nadia still believes there is room for improvement. “I believe major renovations should be done in stages. We started out with the floors and the wall papers, then the kitchen and pool came next and now I’m thinking of renovating the powder room. Powder rooms are a great place to take some decorating risks so I am very excited. I want the smallest room in the house to make the biggest impact. It is the most utilised room in the house so it has to have some wow-factor. For me, it’s always one project after another and that is the excitement that keeps me going.”

Above: the bedrooms, including her children Selena and Murtaza, all have their own personality thanks to Nazia’s designs and ideas.



Get the look

Artwork, polished wood and a mix of textures and colours create Nazia's timeless home.



THE DETAILS

1. Sit blue chair, Dhs3,495, THE One 2. Iron Orb chandelier, Dhs3,690, Indigo Living 3. Amber table lamp, Dhs189, Home Centre 4. Neelam rug, Dhs5,995, THE One 5. Wedgwood 'Pashmina' coffee cup and saucer, Dhs200, Bloomingdale's Home 6. Splendor 8-light chandelier, Dhs1,599, Home Centre 7. Miles leather ottoman, Dhs3,590, and 8. Emerson chair, Dhs5,430 both Ethan Allen 9. Cotton cushion, Dhs45, Homes R Us 10. Yves Delorme 'Visible' cushion, Dhs415, Bloomingdale's Home 11. Assunta buffet table, Dhs5,996, 2XL 12. Traditional silver tray, Dhs980, Ethan Allen 13. Guildford dining chair, POA, Oficinainglesa.com.

Charles and Christine make good use of their outside space; the understated look of the villa belies its spacious plot; the family's beloved pagoda area overlooks a compact outdoor pool.



Set in a secluded spot, Charles and Christine Nahhas' smart Jumeirah villa has proved to be the perfect place to raise their family.

Words: Laurie Davidson
Photography: Austra Osipaviciute

SECRET ESCAPE



Tucked away in the corner of a quiet street in Jumeirah, it's easy to see why Charles Nahhas was drawn to his secluded Dubai villa. While its understated appearance may be in stark contrast to other properties in the area that are not only larger, but rather more ostentatious, the house oozes contemporary style and natural light, all wrapped up in a remarkably generous plot.

"My family lived in the property since 1997, and we moved in to rent it back in 2006, just after our first child was born," recalls Charles, who runs Montegrappa Italia in the Middle East. He shares his home with wife Christine, who runs the Emirates Opera Project, and children Kaya and Marco. "We love that the villa can barely be seen from the road outside the gate, allowing us all the privacy we need."

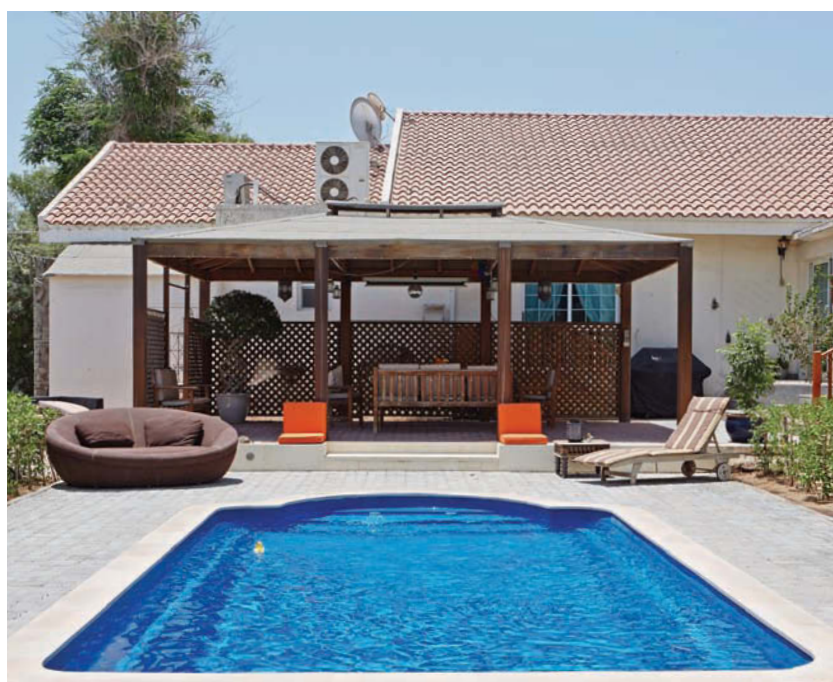
Filled with character and a sense of family life, the single-story property offers a living and dining room, a family area, large kitchen with extended conservatory, plus a spacious outdoor pergola area overlooking a small swimming

pool. There is also a pool room with changing facilities and a full-size snooker table and music studio, which Charles lovingly refers to as his 'den'.

"We've tried to keep the scheme as quirky and arty as we can, to reflect who we are as a family," explains Charles. "It's a combination of Bohemian and functional, retro and loungey."

However, when it comes to interior design, Charles readily admits that he's happy to leave this part to Christine. "I'm probably the worst person in the world to ask," he says. "Having more of a scientific background means I've always been more into functionality than style. Thankfully, my wife is infinitely more cultured and tasteful than me, and her passion for art and our shared love of music are reflected in the decor of our home."

The couple's musical taste is evident throughout, with beautiful paintings of musical-related themes adorning the walls and a range of classical instruments on display, including, among other things, Charles' collection of guitars, a harp, a baby grand piano, a concert grand piano and an upright piano. "While most of the good taste in the





This page, from top:
The snooker room-come-pool room-come-den; artworks throughout depict the owners love of music; the quirky patchwork sofa from Marina and bright table in the family room were inspired by 1970's deco; eclectic buys add a lived-in feel to the villa.



house comes from my wife, there is a drastic contrast in the few places where the elegance of her classical style is punctuated by the modern and functional items I tend to have scattered around," says Charles. "Items like the pair of enormous Samsung speakers in the kitchen, a bass guitar amp stashed under the grand piano, and a mini recording studio/DJ booth in the corner of the pool room, for example."

As long-term tenants of the villa, Charles and Christine have taken on the maintenance and upkeep of the villa as though it were their own, preferring to add their own touches rather than hire an interior designer. "Fortunately my wife's taste and eye for stylish stuff makes this possible," says Charles. "We wanted our home to reflect who we are as people. We didn't try to copy others styles from magazines or portray an image that didn't come from us. A house should be a place where you feel at home and should nurture and inspire your passions."

A huge draw for this musical couple, especially classically trained opera singer Christine, is the fact that the living and dining room features high vaulted ceilings, which in turn boast excellent acoustics. "Every Christmas, we would host a concert during which Christine and some of her other classical musician friends would sing Christmas carols and sacred music," recalls Charles. "Over the years this grew into the Emirates Opera Project, a collaboration of all the experienced Opera singers in Dubai, who now perform regularly at various events around the country, and who are the only local Opera group in the UAE to perform at a professional level. As we have great acoustics in the house, and a beautiful 100-year-old grand piano, it is the perfect place for the group to rehearse, and they meet here every Sunday evening. Over the past few years our private Christmas concerts have grown and become the Emirates Opera Project's Annual



This page, from top: A grand piano takes centre stage in the living room; the light décor adds a sense of space.

"We've tried to keep the scheme as quirky and arty as we can, to reflect who we are as a family."





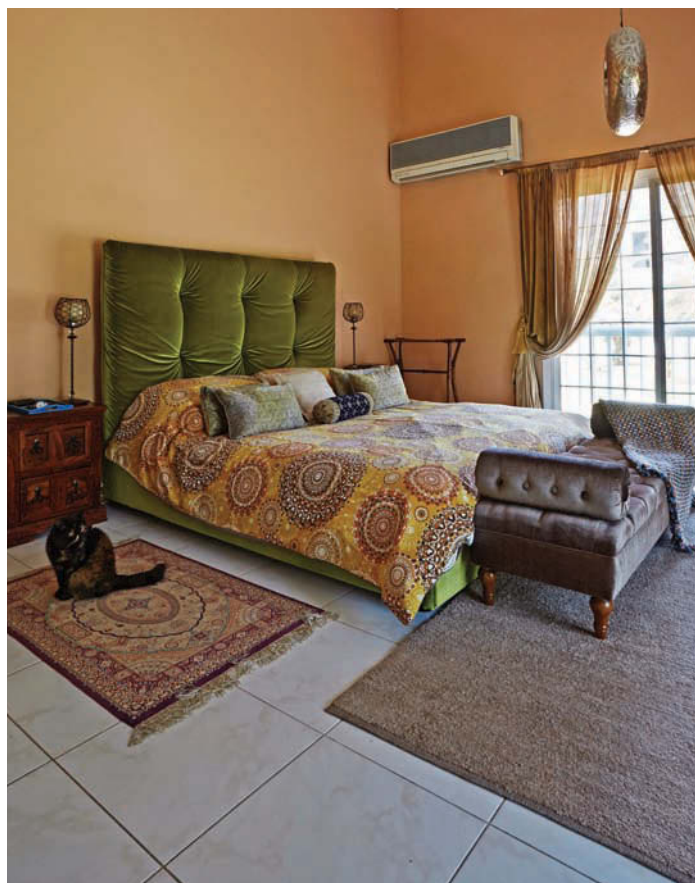
From top: A contemporary table and plenty of seating in the dining area; the master bedroom is inspired by 1960's décor, with circular motifs and hues of green and orange.

Garden Concert, the group's biggest event of the year. It is an open house event for family, friends and friends of friends, and we've welcomed more and more people each year, with last Christmas' concert attracting over 300 people!"

Lucky then, that the villa is more than adequate for hosting parties and private events - and the exterior is no exception. "The garden is spectacularly large considering the fairly modest size of the villa," says Charles. "Some of our friends jokingly call it Safa Park 3. There is a comfortable outdoor space on the terrace in front of our kitchen overlooking the pool, where we have created a large pergola, with cool features such as a pull-down screen that you can shine a projector on to, a fire pit where we sit around in winter and roast chestnuts and marshmallows, and even a stage from where Christine and the Emirates Opera Project can perform. Throughout the winter months this is one of our favourite spots. We spend so much time out there, in fact, we've even had our Christmas dinners there for the last few years."

This family home holds nothing but surprises and a floodlit tennis court offers another space for entertaining - "twice a year we have a roller disco on the tennis court," says Charles, "where we invite all the children from our kids' school to come over on their skates or rollerblades."

He continues, "Having two children, along with two cats and two dogs, it's safe to say our home often feels a little like Noah's Arc. However, it also creates a cosy dynamic and makes the house feel more lived in - and we wouldn't have it any other way." |||||





Get the look

Splashes of bright colour and pattern add personality to Charles's home.



THE DETAILS

1. Bronze desk clock, Dhs369, Indigo Living 2. Vintage Kilim ottoman coffee table, Dhs3,414, Ecochic.com.au 3. Fuchsia dreams lantern, Dhs115, Fiore Rosso 4. Extravagance rug, Dhs7,900, FBMI 5. Squint gilded sofa, Dhs40,500, Bloomingdale's Home 6. Martin dining chair Dhs89, Ikea 7. Ghida's Turkish coffee cups, Dhs62 each and Ghida's Pearl tray, Dhs375, Silsal Design House 8. West Elm candlestick, Dhs99, Lifestyle 9. Hemnes day bed, Dhs1,695, Ikea 10. Tamer Khalifa wall art, Dhs4,000, Iris Noir.

Dorothee Junkin of DJDS has created this contemporary beach-side home in Vero Beach, Florida, which has international influences.

MODERN BEACH HOUSE

Photography: WILLIAM WALDRON
Text: ROSALIND ERSKINE



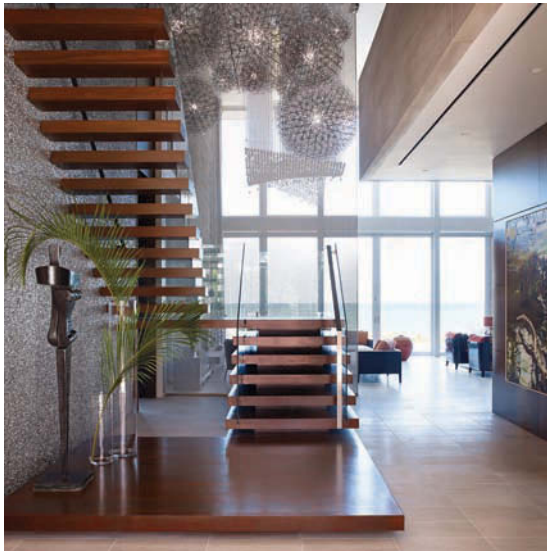
As first projects go, this 18,000 sq ft beach house in Florida could have been too much for some, but Dorothee Junkin of DJDS wasn't fazed by the scale, or the fact that it wasn't even built yet. "When I first met the client, the contractor had just started work on the foundations for the shell of the building and the interiors had not been looked into at all. I pretty much had to hit the ground running and play catch-up with the ongoing construction work over the first few months. The contractor, who was about to pour the ground-floor concrete slabs, needed positions for floor outlets and plumbing immediately, so we had to draw preliminary plans without having finalised the actual designs," she explains.

"My background in architecture was very helpful in the initial project stages, as we were looking at complex spaces and there was no actual building to look at – yet. One really had to be able to visualise the spaces to be able to understand what was going to be built and how the interiors would have to respond to the shell. Some of the spaces, like the wonderfully high-ceilinged living room, were exceptionally large and therefore required some additional thought about how to make the space feel grand without a single person feeling lost in it." It was this challenge and opportunity to create something unique and of high-end quality that attracted Dorothee to the project, plus the fact that the client "wasn't keen on a classic Florida beach house look," which appealed to Dorothee's international design





The exterior
and pool deck
area of the
home.



Clockwise from top left: bespoke staircase; wooden boats in the lush courtyard; the formal living room with large, custom-made statement light; the master living room; indoor/outdoor seating area that makes the most of the ocean views; the glass-fronted house has a gorgeous outlook; a corner of master living room with recliners.

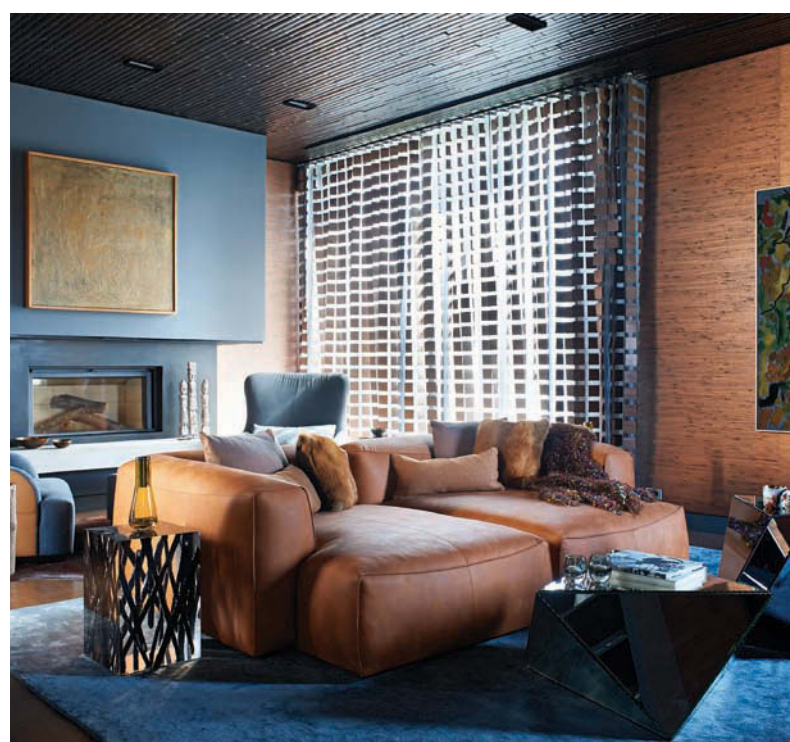
background.

The brief for the home was based around the client's desire for a contemporary and elegant look with ample indoor and outdoor space to entertain friends and family in a variety of formal and informal settings. "During one of the first meetings the client said: 'Show me what is out there – preferably things I have not seen everywhere – and I will tell you whether I like it or not.' Given the rather contemporary and understated style of the architecture, the client was not too keen on interiors that shouted "Florida beach house" and was curious to see what an international design outlook could bring to the space. With this in mind, I designed interiors that have a contemporary elegance combined with international influences by bringing together artfully applied custom lighting installations, textures, furniture sourced from all over the world, finds from the owner's travels, plus vintage pieces and a variety of custom-designed furnishings," Dorothee explains.

The project took about 18 months to complete due to the scale of the house, which includes two pool decks, an entrance hall, formal living and dining rooms, kitchen, pantry, media room,



“Contemporary elegant European furniture as well as Balinese design aspects, hinting on a subtle beach feel, became the focus of the initial style brief.”





Clockwise: a light and airy Balinese-inspired bedroom with four-poster bed, which creates an understated luxurious feel; another, cosy master bedroom; office with statement feather lightshades; the contemporary master bathroom with nature-inspired accessories.





outdoor kitchen, master wing, a gym, four guest rooms and a pied-a-terre for the owner's mother, as well as two dorm-style bedrooms for the owner's twelve nieces and nephews. Dorothee's interior design, decor and style inspiration came from her international background.

"Contemporary, elegant European furniture as well as Balinese design aspects, hinting at a subtle beach feel, became the focus of the initial style brief. The client also wanted to see some colour in her home, and a subtle muted colour palette was selected for some of the primary spaces, while some of the guest bedrooms received bolder splashes of colour. A well-considered material concept allows a seemingly effortless flow from one area to the next while imbuing each of the soaring primary spaces, as well as the more private secondary spaces, with its own distinct feel. All over the house subtle Alabama limestone creates an elegant atmosphere with its velvety texture or lends a more rustic feel with a split-face version. Wall panels, flooring and joinery in walnut give a beautiful contrast to the stone finishes and add warmth and character. The meticulous design process paid close attention to every space and every detail mattered as an integral part of the design, giving each space the individuality it deserves," she says.

The opportunity to create a unique space and the architectural points of interest, such as the beautiful and dramatic 8 metre-high ground floor ceilings and formal entertaining space, are what stand out about this home. Dorothee could also collaborate with designers to create bespoke



“A well-considered material concept allows a seemingly effortless flow from one area to the next.”



Left: the modern indoor/outdoor kitchen with feature lighting and beautiful wooden counter and chairs. Above: the family dog relaxes on a leather lounge.



pieces such as the lighting installations, designed by DJDS and Sharon Marston, which help to produce something truly special. When it comes to Dorothee’s favourite space in such a large project, she cites the Lanai/Loggia ‘outdoor kitchen’. “It’s wonderful to sit here in the sunlight in the mornings when temperatures are still low, and then it is shaded during the hot afternoons. It offers a comfortable lounge area as well as a dining area adjacent to an indoor/outdoor kitchen. Everyone is drawn to it and whenever visitors are at the house, you’ll find someone enjoying the views and slight breeze from the ocean in the Lanai.

As for the owners, they are more than happy with the finished result. “Although our house is quite large, it doesn’t feel cold or intimidating the way some houses can. It’s warm and inviting and has inspired both quiet nights in and fun family get-togethers, all of which come with amazing memories. For us, that’s really what makes a house a home.” ■■■

www.djds.us



Get the look

Bespoke pieces and statement furniture add a distinct sense of style to this large, open plan home.



THE DETAILS

1. Rain Shower chandelier, Dhs8,520, Artisan.com 2. Tom Dixon gold bashed vessels, Dhs1,270, Design Shop by S*uce 3. Aston Cord outdoor sofa, POA, Aati 4. Faux fur blanket, Dhs649, Zara Home 5. Fiona Barratt-Campbell Armour chair, made to order, FBC London 6. Como rug from the Contemporary Collection Dhs2,864 per m2, The Rug Company 7. Klotz plain orange cushion cover, Dhs110, Andshine.co.uk 8. Metal lantern, Dhs69, Home Centre 9. Cryst table lamp, Dhs499, THE One 10. ÄPPLARÖ trolley, Dhs475, Ikea 11. Arteriors Home 'Costello' antique side table, Dhs2,800 Bloomingdale's Home.

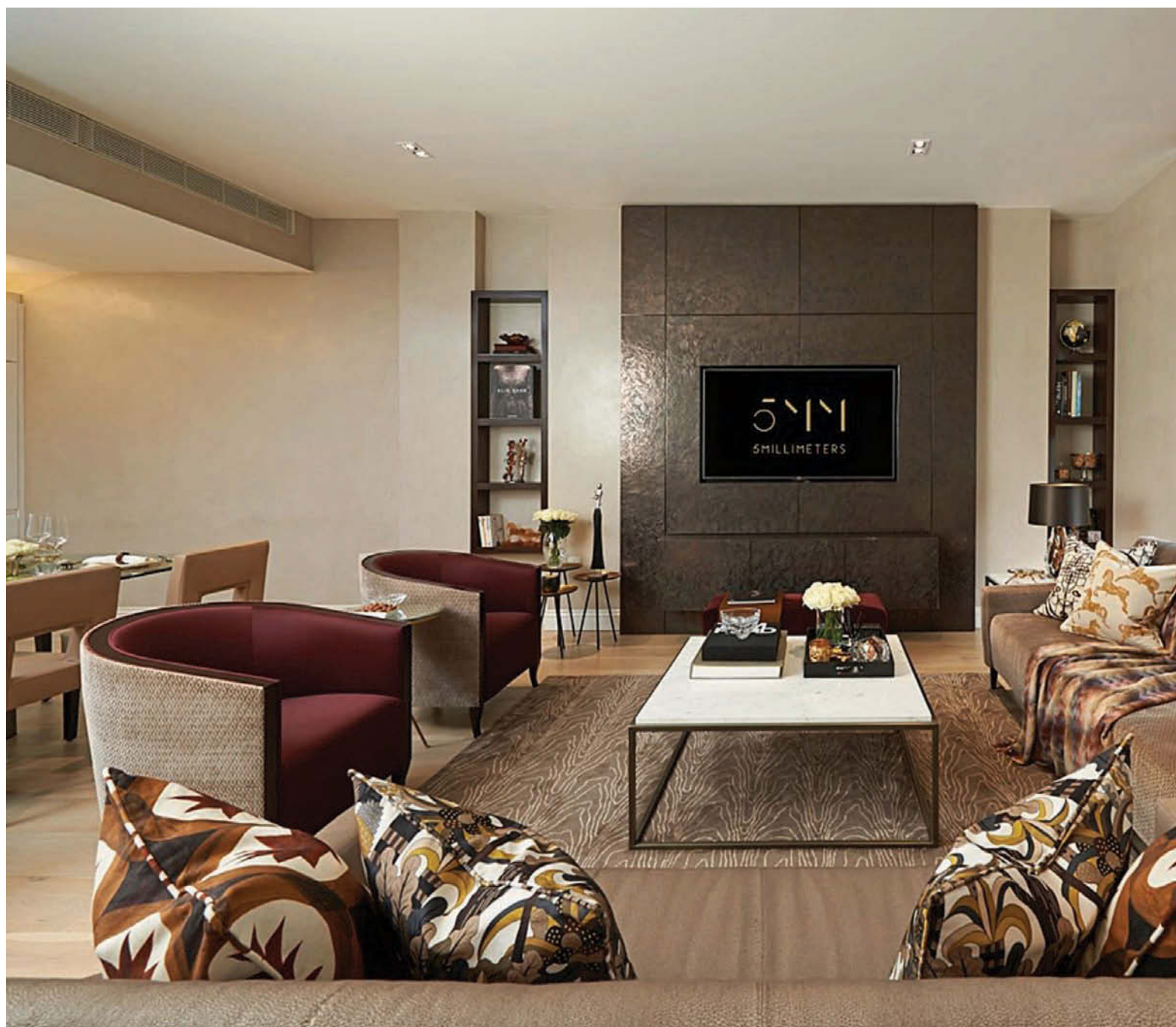
THE TEXTURE
Stone

THE COLOUR
Orange

Valspar
Carrot Stick VR009B

Elegant INSPIRATIONS

Middle Eastern designer Hameed Hani and his company 5mm have transformed this exclusive London apartment in to a unique, tranquil home.





Left: The living room is a comfortable sanctuary with lots of soft furnishings (including Hermes cushions) in earthy, neutral tones that help create the homely feel. Above: Hameed Hani is making waves in the interior design scene with projects in some of London's most exclusive addresses.



CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR SEYMOUR STREET PROJECT? SPECIFICALLY, WHAT IS THE THEME YOU TRIED TO ACHIEVE AND FROM WHERE DID YOU DRAW INSPIRATION TO BRING YOUR IDEAS TO LIFE?

The brief for this project was to achieve a warm, homely design that reflects a luxury lifestyle yet still be playful and colourful. In order to achieve that, we decided to take on stone, beige and bronze tones as the backdrop to the project then choose a dominant colour that will feature in the key elements of the project, which is burgundy. These colours create the cosy warm environment that the client was looking for. We steered clear from the 'trendy' grey tones that are mainly used in current projects, as they usually reflect colder, less homely environments.

Each piece of furniture for this project was specifically designed by 5mm in order to accommodate the requirements of this project. The sofas used light bronze and stone coloured fabrics with different textures to add depth to the design. The tub chairs were manipulated to incorporate two colours and textures into the design. The inside of the chair features a 100% soft wool burgundy fabric, while the back of the chair boasts a pattern-cut velvet fabric that ties in with the sofa fabric. Together, they enhance the unity of the design.

In order to lift the project and lighten the decor, we included bespoke coffee and side tables that incorporated White Calacatta marble with golden veining supported by a light bronze frame with brushed-matt finishes. The pieces were designed by 5mm and manufactured in Milan using one of our trusted furniture factories. This ensured that we cut out the middle man and lowered the cost of the product to work within our design budget.

The blinds feature a custom digital print using the exact shade of burgundy used on the chairs and ottoman. The walls have the signature 5mm Polished Plaster finish that gives a stone wall wash effect to the space.

In order to add another dimension to the design elements, we created a bespoke sideboard unit with antiqued mirrored doors that have an Art Deco feel. They serve as the display surface for a 1920 antique lioness sculpture.

The artwork that was selected for this project was kept to a palette of black, white and grey, as we did not want to change the balance of colours in the scheme. We used photography art by world-famous photographer Vincent Peters to add a soft feminine touch to the scheme.

We fulfilled with the 'playful' side of the brief by using multi-patterned cushions. Hermes was the perfect choice as they offer playful prints that work well together but add an extra element of luxury to the design.



The eight-person dining table features a bespoke brushed-bronze base with walnut trims at the top, which can be seen through the glass top.

The entrance area boasts a bespoke slim console with black marble, finished with an antique pewter ink well from Portugal. The ink well gave us the idea for the guest book, allowing visitors to sign it and leave a comment for the homeowner.

WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU ENCOUNTER DURING THE EXECUTION OF THE PROJECT?

Time and budget were the biggest challenges for this project. The time frame for the project was eight weeks from concept to completion. This meant that we had to make final decisions within the first two weeks in order to start producing the workshop drawings for our bespoke furniture. Fortunately, we have close working relationships with our suppliers who ensure that they

“As with most of our projects, we put our 5mm signature stamp on this project.”

Clockwise from left: Artwork, accessories including the antique lioness sculpture and the feature Botti trumpet lighting add interest to this home; quirky lighting; the sleek kitchen and dining area; Hermes cushions were chosen for their playful prints and luxury materials.



produce what we want quickly.

Budget was another challenge that we had to overcome for this project. The client wanted a high-end design but had a limited budget to work with. We successfully overcame this due to our competitive supplier relationships, which meant we could source and manufacture our furniture directly from the source and cut out the middle-man commissions.

PLEASE TELL US MORE ABOUT THE CUSTOMISED PIECES. CAN YOU IDENTIFY WHAT THESE ARE AND SHARE MORE DETAILS ABOUT THEM? THE TELEVISION FRAME REALLY CAUGHT OUR EYE...

As with most of our commissions, we put our 5mm signature stamp on this project, which is to create a bespoke, unique joinery piece that serves as a piece of art along with its functional use. In this case, it was the bespoke bronze TV unit. This piece was the main focal point for this project. It features a design in real bronze at full height intended to dominate the living space. It gives the feeling of a fireplace without the need for a real fire.

The piece was designed here at 5mm and used liquid dark bronze that was applied to the wooden structure. The bronze was then given its textured finish by hand to produce the scratch and wave effect and



left to dry. Finally, the bronze was polished to give a high-shine finish. The unit conceals all of the audio-visual and internet equipment within its cupboards, which feed into all areas of the apartment.

THE KITCHEN CABINETS WERE DESIGNED BEAUTIFULLY TO CREATE A NEAT AND SLEEK WALL UNIT. PLEASE TELL US MORE ABOUT THEM, PARTICULARLY THEIR FUNCTIONALITY.

The kitchen colour was selected to be white to balance the dark-bronze TV unit, which is located in the same open-plan living space. We wanted to minimise the standard wall cabinet splits (normally 60cm wide) and design 120cm-wide doors that lift upwards. This meant that the storage behind was 120cm clear in width, which allowed for more versatility in terms of storage.

The lower units conceal the dishwasher and cutlery drawers. The kitchen worktop is made from composite stone and the splashback is back-coloured glass. Both of the colours for these items were carefully selected to match the tones of the overall scheme. Finally, we used top-of-the-range Miele built-in appliances for the kitchen, as we wanted them to blend into the design as much as possible. ||||

www.5mm.co



Snapshot of Style

WE SELECT OUR FAVOURITE ON-TREND
ACCESSORIES FOR YOUR HOME FROM
INDIGO LIVING'S LATEST COLLECTION.



3.



THE DETAILS

1. Clockwise from left: Coconut Palm cushion, Dhs249; Tropical sitting parrot print, Dhs899; Flamingo cushion cover, Dhs149; Tropical flying parrot print, Dhs899
2. Blush teacup and saucer, Dhs159; Ebony spot and stripe teacups and saucers, Dhs159 each; Maxwell Williams Cashmere dinner plates, Dhs468 as part of a set;
3. Tangier copper lamp, Dhs580; Odessa tealight holders, Dhs59-79;
4. Ceramic bird, Dhs149; Pineapple jar, from Dhs249; Minimal alarm clock, Dhs169.



4.



Tempted by THAILAND

From city break to beachside bliss, culture, shopping and great food, Thailand has something to offer everyone. We take a look at two top destinations, Bangkok and Pattaya, and showcase the top activities, dining and hotels on offer.

The stunning Grand Palace is a must-see for visitors to Bangkok.



Bangkok

With beautiful beaches and bustling cities, Thailand is a go-to destination for all kinds of trips, from business to leisure. Just 7 hours from Dubai the main port of call is the capital, Bangkok, a vibrant city full of culture and personality that boasts the longest official name in history (and holds the Guinness World Record, but it's too long to write here!). It's home to the ornate Grand Palace, beautiful temples, including Wat Pho, an array of cheap, cheerful and delicious street food, excellent shopping and lively nightlife. Visitors can get around the city on foot, Tuk Tuks, brightly coloured taxis or by boat taxi, thanks to the network of canals.



THE DETAILS

WHAT TO SEE/DO**Best Eats Midnight Tuk Tuk Food Tour**

Take in the sights and experience authentic Thai street food with this quirky guided tour. The Tuk Tuks pick up from 8pm and take you around the city, stopping at three well-established eateries that include the famous Thip Samai Pad Thai, Ann Guay Tiew Kua Gai and Khao Mun Gai Pratunam. The helpful guide will give information on the restaurant and food and answer any questions. To help digest all the tasty food, the tour stops at the beautiful Flower Market (believed to be the biggest in the world), Wat Pho, an ancient temple that is a peaceful attraction, especially when visited at night without the crowds, and finally the rooftop bar of Sala Arun, a local B&B, which has stunning views over the river to Wat Arun, the Temple of Dawn.

www.bangkokfoodtours.com

Grand Palace

No trip to Bangkok would be complete without visiting the Grand Palace. Just a 15-minute drive from the city centre, the Grand Palace complex was established in 1782 and is made up of the royal residences, throne halls, government offices and the renowned Temple of the Emerald Buddha, which dates back to the 14th century. The grand buildings are stunning examples of Thai architecture that are steeped in history and showcase intricate craftsmanship.

www.palaces.thai.net



Tuck into delicious street food, such as Pad Thai, in the many outlets in the city.



Travel by Tuk Tuk for a fun and different way to see Bangkok.

Breeze Spa

Guests can relax and unwind in the Breeze Spa, located by the pool on the 8th floor of the Amari Wareragate Hotel (see more on P64). The contemporary-designed spa offers guests an oasis of calm away from the bustling city. With six treatment rooms and a variety of relaxing and rejuvenating packages, from one-hour signature massages to body wraps and facials, there is something to suit all needs.

www.breeze-spa.com

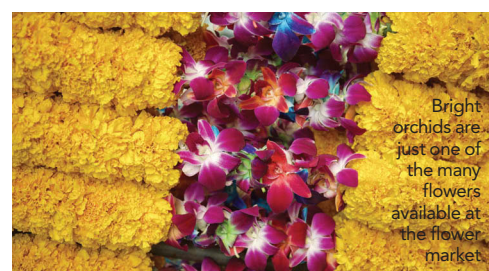
Jim Thompson House

The man that brought Thai silk to the world settled in the region after the Second World War. An architect prior to the war, it was the hand-weaving of silk that caught his attention when he came to Thailand. His home, which is a combination of six teak buildings, showcases his quest for authenticity and love of Thailand. On site there is also a shop of Jim Thompson silk wares, such as scarves, bags and clothing, and a restaurant located by a serene pool and by the canal serving delicious Thai food.

www.jimthompsonhouse.com



A woman spins silk at the Jim Thompson House museum.



Bright orchids are just one of the many flowers available at the flower market.



THE DETAILS

WHERE TO STAY Amari Watergate

This modern, ideally located hotel is perfect for both holiday-makers and those on business and is situated within walking distance of the city's main shopping areas, including Central World Mall, Gaysorn Plaza and Siam Paragon, not to mention the street markets on the hotel's doorstep. The 569 room, 34-storey hotel is decorated in an understated, elegant fashion with a huge, spacious lobby and seven different dining options in-house. The deluxe rooms, of which we enjoyed our stay in a top-floor king-bed room with views over the city, are large and well equipped with free wifi, an iron and board, flat-screen television, huge and very comfortable bed, plus an en suite with rain shower and bath tub. The hotel also offers guests access to its four executive floors, a tranquil retreat that has a private reception with 24-hour butler service, lounge, and panoramic views over the city.

www.amari.com/watergate

WHERE TO DINE

Bangkok is full of excellent dining destinations, but for starters we recommend the hotel's restaurants, Thai on 4, Heichinrou and Cascade. For an introduction in to Thai food, Thai on 4 brings everything you'd expect to the table, from traditional curries to lighter spicy salads and soups – ideal for a satisfying dinner. Lunch options are varied but we thoroughly enjoyed a selection of dim sum from Heichinrou, served with jasmine tea. The seafood and meat options are perfect for sharing and are all prepared by Cantonese Master Chef Yiu Chi Chow. For those looking for something with a European influence, Cascade is the place to visit. Found in the hotel lobby, this relaxed venue serves up pizzas, sandwiches and daily specials such as fish and chips.

Clockwise: Executive Lounge balcony; the tranquil Executive Lounge; birdseye view of the 8th floor pool; the beautiful entrance to Heichinrou restaurant; the Amari Watergate is located within walking distance of many of the city's attractions.





Pattaya

One of Thailand's first beach resorts in the 1960s, Pattaya makes an ideal getaway haunt for locals and tourists alike. Roughly about an hour's drive from Suvarnabhumi airport, the fishing-town-turned-beach-resort is fast becoming a family-friendly destination, with two principle beachfronts that host a range of activities from parasailing to water-skiing. Pattaya also offers visitors many unique waterfront dining destinations, serving up traditional Thai food including fresh seafood. Like Bangkok it also is home to many historical sites such as the awe-inspiring Sanctuary of Truth.



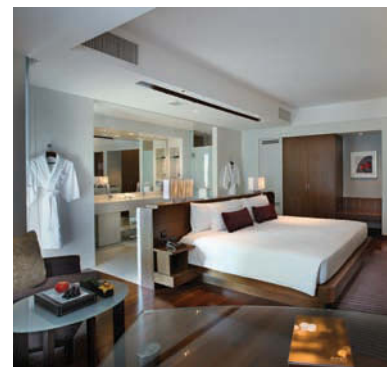


THE DETAILS

WHERE TO STAY

Situated on the beachfront with uninterrupted views over the resort, manicured gardens and beach, this soaring, 20-storey hotel offers guests a welcome retreat to relax and soak up all Pattaya has to offer. Each room has unrivalled, panoramic views and our Duplex Suite was no exception. Set over two floors, the spacious room boasts a living area, private balcony, kitchen with complimentary food and beverages, desk area, king-sized bed and open-plan luxury bathroom (situated upstairs). As with the rest of the hotel, the rooms are decorated in a contemporary Thai style with muted tones and polished wood. There are two pools available to guests – a free form pool and a lap pool – both surrounded by well-equipped loungers and a pool-side bar (by the free form pool). After a day of relaxation or exploring, guests can choose from three restaurants and two bars, catering to all tastes from laid-back to formal.

www.amari.com/ocean-pattaya



WHERE TO DINE

Many of the best places to eat out in Pattaya are off the beaten track, such as the Glasshouse restaurant and the beautiful Rimpa Lapin. The Glasshouse is a laid-back beachfront restaurant serving fresh seafood cooked in traditional Thai style and international dishes. It is a perfect location for a lazy Sunday lunch.

www.glasshouse-pattaya.com

Rimpa Lapin is an enchanting eatery that is set on a cliff face overlooking the Gulf of Thailand, making it ideal for drinks at sunset. The restaurant/bar is decorated with pretty coloured lanterns, candles, vintage signs and simple wooden chairs and tables with bright cushions. The

menu consists of Thai-fusion food and includes plenty of fresh seafood, curries and rice dishes.

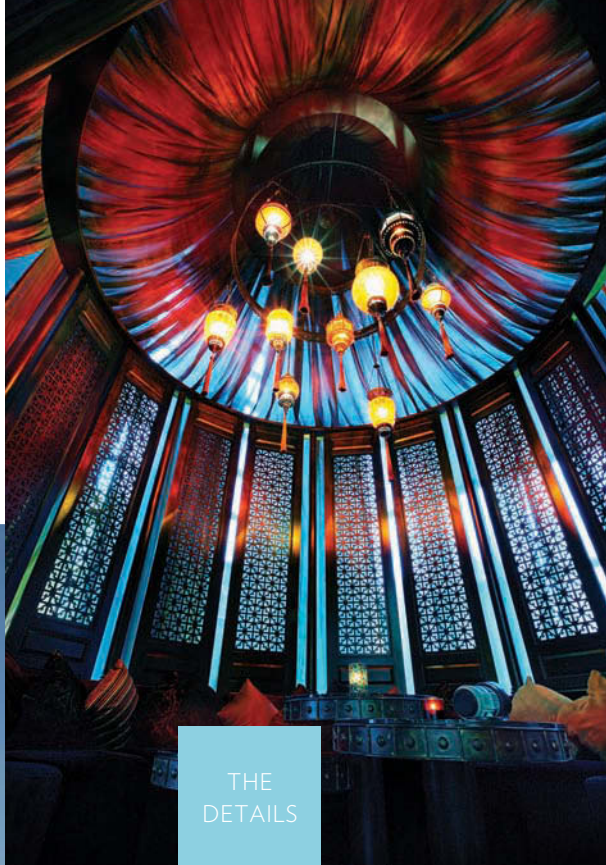
www.rimpa-lapin.com

Mantra

The most noted of the restaurants within the Amari Ocean Hotel is Mantra, which has been voted 4th on TripAdvisor's top 10 choice restaurants in Thailand, and it is not hard to see why. Decorated in a sleek Asian style with pops of bright red and beautiful feature lighting, it's headed up by Chef Maurizio Susan (formally of the Westin in Dubai), and serves Japanese, Chinese, Thai, Western and Indian cuisine in seven show kitchens.

www.mantra-pattaya.com





THE DETAILS



Sanctuary of Truth

The Sanctuary of Truth is a huge wooden construction that is still under renovation, the highest point of which can be seen from the Amari Ocean Hotel. Constructed according to ancient Thai method of interlocking wooden joints, each square inch of the building is covered with carved wooden sculptures of contemporary visionary art that reflect the traditional Buddhist and Hindu motifs. The Sanctuary of Truth was the brainchild of Thai businessman Lek Viriyaphant back in 1981 and is still under construction as the wood needs to be replaced and recarved due to wear and tear from the elements.

www.sanctuaryoftruth.com

WHAT TO SEE/DO

Mantra cookery class

Learn how to cook traditional Thai dishes such as green curry, pad Thai and som tam, a spicy green papaya salad. Classes take place in the Garden Wing of the hotel. Thanks to the welcoming Head Chef Maurizio Susan, we had a fun and entertaining class, after which we enjoyed the fruits of our labour and took home a small recipe book for each dish. For more information, speak to reception staff in the hotel.

www.mantra-pattaya.com

Breeze spa

Guests looking to relax should book a treatment at Amari's Breeze Spa, located on the 4th floor of the Ocean Pattaya hotel. We highly recommend a Signature Serene massage, which is ideal for getting rid of the everyday stresses and getting you in to the holiday spirit. The design of the spa matches the contemporary theme in the hotel but with calming elements such as soothing music, scents, candlelight and coloured light therapy.

www.breeze-spa.com

BEFORE BOOKING

● Thai Airways fly direct from Dubai to Bangkok daily and offer business class passengers access to its Silk Lounge within the airport. Traditional Thai food is served on-board and a selection of beverages and up-to-date films and TV programmes are available on demand.

● The Thai Baht is

best exchanged from dollars, but you can get a lot for your money as shopping, food and drink are very reasonably priced. If browsing the street markets be sure to take cash as cards are not accepted.

● Be prepared to walk a lot in order to see the sights, especially around tourist destinations

and temples, all of which are very busy. The Grand Palace has a strict dress code so be sure to cover up or pay for a loan of a shirt or scarf.

● Tuk Tuk taxis are a different and fun way to see Bangkok, but be sure to barter a price before heading off on one as they are not metered. Knowing a

rough price before you set off is helpful.

● Thailand, although not as hot as the UAE, is very humid so remember to pack sunscreen, water and a hat. Thunderstorms are common in the hotter months, so consider this when booking and perhaps bring an umbrella just to be on the safe side!

THAILAND INSPIRED BUYS

Aqua travel wallet, **Dhs1,200**, Aspal of London.



Lotus cushion **Dhs137**, Lovernmyrte.com.



Straw hat, **Dhs600**, Patrizia Pepe.



Fringed tan bag, **Dhs99**, Carpisa.



Rainforest print maxi dress, **Dhs995**, Bebe.



WIN! A stay for two in THAILAND...

To Win...

Q. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE SPA IN THE AMARI PATTAYA HOTEL?

Send your answers by email to emirateshome@itp.com with the subject Thailand Competition by 9th August 2015 to be in with a chance of winning this fab prize.

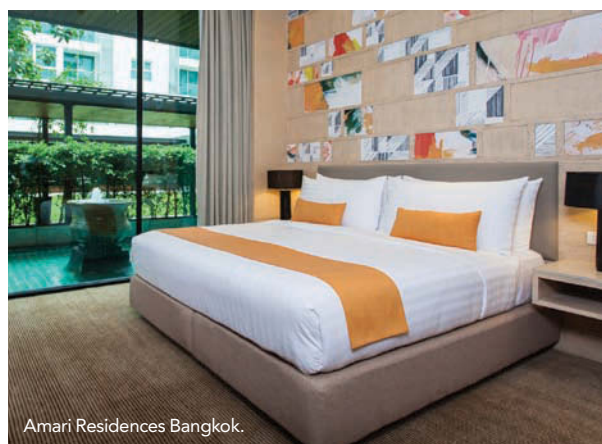
Bag yourself a summer holiday to remember with our reader giveaway. Discover Bangkok and Pattaya in Thailand, which is only 7 hours from Dubai and steeped in rich culture and history, not to mention the delicious dining and serious shopping!

THE DETAILS

Enjoy a 4-night, 2-centre holiday for 2 people in Thailand courtesy of Amari, with 2 nights at the stylish Amari Residences Bangkok in a 1-bedroom corner suite and 2 nights at Amari Ocean Pattaya in an Executive Club room.

In Bangkok you will be located beside the vibrant New Petchburi Road, within easy access to tourist attractions and Bangkok Hospital. Royal City Avenue and Thonglor, two of Bangkok's trendiest nightlife areas are within easy reach. The popular Bangkok Midnight Food Tour by Tuk Tuk is included in your stay, giving you a unique view of the city's street food scene at night.*

In Pattaya, you overlook Pattaya Bay, manicured gardens and two swimming pools. Just steps from the beach, minutes from the exciting downtown shopping and nightlife, with a host of family-friendly activities on your doorstep, this is a trip of a lifetime. A Breeze Spa treatment for two is included in your stay.



THE LUCKY WINNER OF THIS COMPETITION WILL RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING:

- Airport meet & greet and transfer to Amari Residences Bangkok.
- 2 nights for 2 people in a 1-bedroom corner suite at Amari Residences Bangkok.
- 2 nights for 2 people in an Executive Club room at Amari Pattaya.
- Welcome fruit basket and garland upon arrival.
- Daily Breakfast.
- One dinner in each hotel.
- Executive Club privileges at Amari Pattaya.
- Bangkok Midnight Food Tour by Tuk Tuk in Bangkok.
- Breeze Spa treatments for two people at Amari Pattaya.
- Transfers between Bangkok and Pattaya.
- Return Airport transfers from Pattaya.



TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY

● Prize cannot be split or transferred ● Valid until 31 March 2016 ● Reservations required and confirmation is subject to availability ● Original voucher to be presented upon check in ● Flights are excluded ● Additional expenses other than those listed above are the responsibility of the reader ● Prize cannot be exchanged for cash or unused components refunded

*WWW.BANGKOKFOODTOURS.COM
TO HELP PLAN YOUR STAY, VISIT WWW.DESTINATION.AMARI.COM/EN/BANGKOK/ AND WWW.DESTINATION.AMARI.COM/EN/PATTAYA/



INSIDE LOOK

Catch DUBAI.

Nowhere quite beats New York for style, iconic design and trend-setting dining destinations, which is why the introduction of the city's hippest restaurant and celebrity haunt, Catch, found in the Meatpacking district, is an exciting and welcome addition to Dubai's dining scene. Located in the Fairmont on Sheikh Zayed Road, Catch offers a fresh take on seafood, set within a cool, industrial-inspired interior with large leather booths, brick and concrete walls, exposed pendant lights and steel and leather seats.

New York City chef Bobby Griffing has created a menu that consists of sharing dishes from small starters of sushi rolls and salads to large whole fish and cuts of meat as mains. We enjoyed a selection of Hellfire spicy tuna rolls and the Signature Dubai rolls accompanied by a refreshing Beet Salad with candied walnuts and goats cheese foam followed by hot dishes of King Fish Tacos, Shrimp Scampi, Wagyu Lobster Grill and Crunchy Rice Cakes, all creatively presented and bursting with flavour. Next up, our helpful waiter recommended one of the Big Fish dishes (there are Big Meat options available too). We tucked into a whole filleted chili rubbed Sea bass served with braised clams and silky potato mash with sides of truffles fries and green beans.

With such good food served within a hip venue, it is no surprise that Catch is reeling in visitors from far and wide. www.fairmont.com/dubai/dining/catch-dubai



Fact Box...

WHERE:

The Fairmont Hotel, Sheikh Zayed Road.

WE LOVE:

The industrial-inspired decor and comfortable leather booths.

STAY FOR:

Post dinner refreshments at the bar and the buzzing atmosphere of this cool venue.



HIP HOTELS

At Home

ABU DHABI, UAE.

ST REGIS SAADIYAT

Enjoy a wonderful weekend away in this beach-side hotel.

Saadiyat Island is fast becoming Abu Dhabi's go-to destination for weekend plans thanks to the beautiful namesake Beach Club, the arts and culture district that will be home to the Abu Dhabi Guggenheim and Louvre, as well as luxurious villas and deluxe hotels, including the 5* St Regis Hotel.

The iconic St Regis brand, synonymous with comfort and luxury, opened in Saadiyat (its second outlet in Abu Dhabi) in 2011. The award-winning 377-room hotel offers guests a complete retreat with a 24 hour butler service, a pristine private beach (where Hawksbill turtles can often be

spotted), three beautifully presented pools and a selection of dining and beverage options, including Olea, the all-day dining venue, Sucre Patisserie, for a sweet treat, and The Drawing Room, perfect for post-dinner drinks or an afternoon tea.

The hotel's interior has a Mediterranean feel with coral motifs, splashes of turquoise and soft blues punctuating the cream and beige colour scheme, alongside feature glass lighting and metallic furniture. This theme is carried throughout the rooms, which also have Arabic touches in keeping with the hotel's location. Our beautiful and spacious Ocean View Suite was ideally located with stunning views across the



turquoise waters of the Arabian Gulf and had everything available for a relaxing stay, including a separate living room with a sofa, desk, flat-screen TV, iPod docking station and well-appointed mini bar. You can also enjoy access to a furnished balcony, a large, comfortable king-sized bed in the bedroom, en-suite with walk-in wardrobe, a deep, oversized bath tub, shower room with rain shower and double sinks. There are also added extras that make the room a pampering retreat, such as Remede toiletries, super-soft robes and slippers, a complimentary fruit bowl and chocolates, not to mention the butler service, on call for anything that guests may require throughout their stay.

The pampering continues in the tranquil Iridium Spa. Both a term from Greek mythology and a precious and rare metal, the spa is an elegant escape decked out in a neutral palette set to the backdrop of relaxing candlelight with beautiful, well-appointed facilities that include a jacuzzi, steam room, shower experiences and a sauna. The dressing rooms tick all the boxes for comfort that you'd find in the hotel itself, from robes and slippers to fluffy towels and heavenly toiletries, as well as practical additions. To finish off the day we recommend a Signature 60-minute Espa massage, tailored to each guest's needs.

After a day of relaxation either by the pool, beach or in the spa, dinner can be had in one of the four main dining options from steak at 55&5th Grill to fresh seafood at Turquoiz. We enjoyed a delicious meal at Sontaya, the southeast Asian restaurant that can be found among walled pavilions and interconnected pools and ponds, which can be viewed from its glass façade. A shared started of Singapore pot sticker of pan fried chicken and scallop dumplings was followed by a green tiger prawn curry and a Massaman short rib curry, both accompanied by coconut rice and morning glory – a tasty mix of green beans, spinach and bean curd.

The St Regis is a brand that is known for its timeless luxury and style which, mixed with the beauty of its Saadiyat location, results in a destination that once experienced, will be revisited.



GET THE LOOK IN BRIEF

The Accessories

Bordeaux table lamp, Dhs890, Indigo Living

Teal pleated cushion, Dhs490, Ethan Allen

Shell on stand, Dhs139, Crate and Barrel

Linen blanket, Dhs649, Zara Home

The Colours

The Look



Clockwise: Guests can relax on the pristine beach; the hotel's grand exterior; a superior guest room; Manhattan Lounge with sea views.



HIP HOTELS
At Home
INTERNATIONAL

OMAN.

The Chedi Muscat

Escape to this nastrally beautiful location and unwind in understated luxury.

Although Muscat is only a 45-minute flight from Dubai International, it couldn't feel further away. The rugged, rolling Al Hajar Mountains set the natural backdrop for a capital city that is steeped in culture and history, and which overlooks the turquoise waters of the Gulf of Oman. Nestling between these two natural marvels is The Chedi Muscat, a luxury 5* resort hotel just 20 minutes from Muscat airport. Boasting 158 guest rooms and suites set within 21 acres of pristine grounds, The Chedi is a tranquil oasis that offers guests a perfectly placed location for both relaxing and exploring. Opened in 2003 and the first hotel complex of its kind within the region at the time, the whitewashed façade of the beautiful resort was designed and executed by renowned architects Denniston and Jean-Michel Gathy, the creative mind

behind the inspired designs and general feel of the hotel. Despite being 12 years old, the hotel shows no sign of ageing and is, in fact, growing with the addition of a new 13-suite, Balinese-inspired spa located by the stunning Long Pool (the longest pool in the Middle East).

The interior décor is an unassuming mix of the traditional – the lobby is set up to look and feel like a Bedouin tent, with beautiful jewel-coloured hanging lanterns in the centre – with minimal Asian influences throughout. Each private guest room or suite overlooks the landscaped garden setting with either the mountains or sea beyond and only the sound of the linked water features and small pools break the silence. Our well-appointed Chedi Club Suite, located within a private villa, offered a generous accommodation that consisted of a large living room with divan seating, a private terrace



BORODULINS SHOW DURING MERCEDES-BENZ FASHION WEEK RUSSIA IN MOSCOW, RUSSIA. (PHOTO BY PASCAL LE SEGRETAIR/GETTY IMAGES FOR MBFW RUSSIA)

The Look

Borodulins catwalk show, Russia



GET THE LOOK IN BRIEF

The Accessories

Wire tealight holder, Dhs29, Homes R Us

Taupe linen cushion Dhs2,120, Ethan Allen

Bronze Bubbles centerpiece, Dhs1,141, Silsal Design House

The Colours

overlooking the gardens and mountains, a huge king-sized bed, en suite with sunken bath, rain shower and large dressing area complete with Acqua di Parma toiletries, two flat-screen televisions, a Nespresso machine and, as a finishing touch to this decadent abode, a complimentary mini bar. The Suite is decorated in a similar style to the hotel – white walls with low-hung cutwork pendant lights, polished walnut flooring and soft furnishings in neutral tones. The Suites also provide guests access to the Chedi Club Lounge, which offers afternoon tea and evening drinks and canapés, as well as internet access and a small library, all complimentary of course.

As with most hotels in the region, The Chedi offers a sophisticated Friday Brunch that includes a range of packages from soft drinks to sparkling options. Located in The Restaurant, one of six dining options available to guests. The buffet options are a mix of European, Arabic and Asian and set within the chic, chandelier-lit dining room overlooking the sea.

For those looking to experience the ultimate in total relaxation, we recommend the signature Chedi Jade massage. Two therapists work in sync in this full body treatment, which is sure to relax and rejuvenate. Guests can then unwind in the beautiful relaxation room, which has uninterrupted views of the resort and beach and is decorated in the same understated Asian-influenced style with many traditional touches, such as the feature silver-domed ceiling and lantern lights.

During the summer months the hotel is offering a Summer Breeze package for GCC residents. From 990MR per room per night, until 30th September, guests can enjoy the hotel, plus a 30% discount at The Spa and a 20% discount on food and soft drinks (breakfast is included). Those who book an additional night will receive a complimentary three-course dinner for two.

On the web
www.ghmhotels.com/en/muscat



Clockwise: the resort's serene exterior; view of the property over calming pools; the long pool; the Chedi pool.

Ask A Designer

Liz Cann

The Design Director for wallpaper and fabric company, Zoffany, talks about their history, latest launches and inspirations for the designs.

TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS? WHEN DID YOU ESTABLISH IT AND HOW HAS IT GROWN SINCE?

Zoffany started very small, reproducing 18th-century wallpapers for Temple over 30 years ago. Following this, the company was set up to produce historical papers. We have since grown immensely, providing a full range of luxurious contemporary and traditional fabrics and wallpapers, also offering superior paints, lush carpets and high-end furniture.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR LATEST PIECE/ COLLECTION?

This January Zoffany has had our biggest launch ever, with five new collections, all in Zoffany's signature style. This season we have launched contemporary damasks with innovative yarns and print techniques.

HOW WERE YOU INSPIRED TO PURSUE YOUR DESIGN WORK?

I had wanted to be a textile designer since I was a teenager and was naturally inclined towards interiors rather than fashion. I studied printed textile design at university and have worked in various fabric and wallpaper houses ever since.

HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT CREATING YOUR PRODUCTS?

The Zoffany studio is comprised of an in-house design team led by Peter Gomez, Head Designer. We are based just outside of London and are lucky to have an extensive archive on-site, which has been collated over the companies 30-year history, and is always growing.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE AND WHY?

Katarina, from the new Constantina Damask wallpaper collection, utilises our latest print



technology with roller screen printing on non-woven paper is the perfect example of how a classic design can be adapted for contemporary interiors. Farfalla is a beautiful new weave from the Cassia collection, which has a lovely surface textural lustre, created with a combination of embroidery and weave technique.

WHAT PLACE MOST INSPIRES YOU?

The V&A museum is a never-ending source of inspiration with many diverse departments. The textiles are of course a favourite, as is the glass – I am a collector. There is always something new to discover at the V&A.

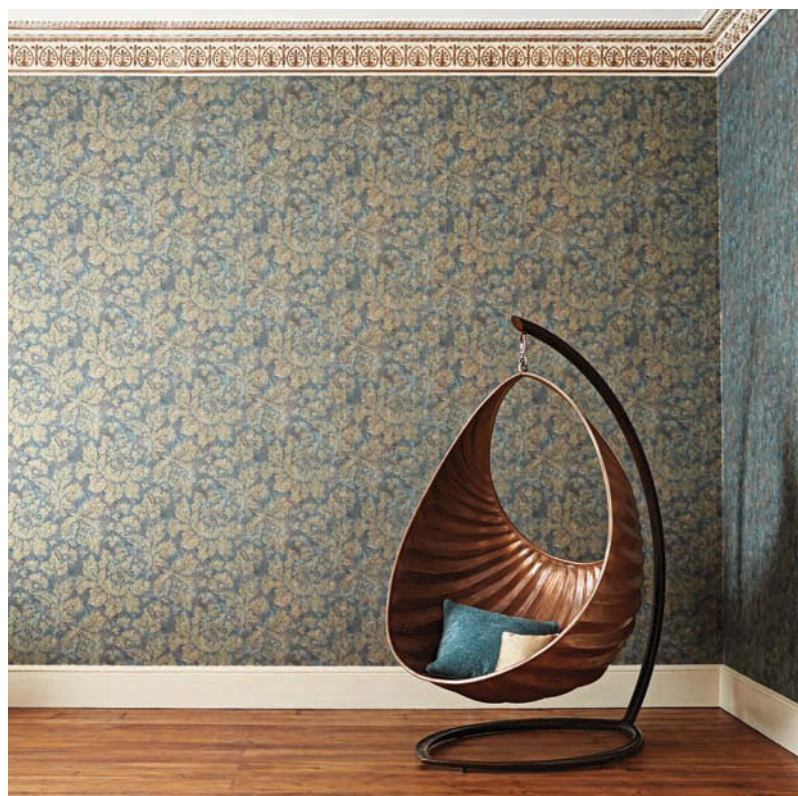
WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOUR COMPANY?

Having established a strong signature style, we are expanding into licencing, with many exciting projects underway. We are also exploring many new, innovative techniques in designing and manufacturing our fabrics and wallpapers. ■■■





Zoffany fabrics and wallpapers are available worldwide. They can be viewed at the Walker Greenbank studio in Business Bay, Dubai.
www.zoffany.com
www.walkergreenbank.com



"The V&A museum is a never-ending source of inspiration with many diverse departments. The textiles are of course a favourite, as is the glass"



LUXURY LIFESTYLE

We take a look inside a series of new villas on Oman's stunning coast. Barr Al Jissah offers buyers a lavish lifestyle, within stylish surroundings but without sacrificing the history of the location.





Barr Al Jissah in Oman is synonymous with luxury, and that is precisely what you'll get when you decide to invest in one of its amazing properties. To think that just a few decades ago all that was on the site was a trading port, but now the property is home to townhouse communities and 15 cliff-top villas, plus a soon-to-be-unveiled marina residence and yacht club. So if you're in need of a spot to moor your luxury vessel, you're in the right place. Accessible from both land and sea, Barr Al Jissah is just a 45-minute drive from Muscat airport and the city centre, making it the perfect place for a second home. The marina at Barr Al Jissah is the cleanest and deepest in Muscat and the resort also offers a water taxi service, making it the ideal place to drop anchor.

Barr Al Jissah has joined forces with Quintessentially, Bentley, the Shangri-La Resort and Sensory to offer a luxury lifestyle set within the exclusive clutch of stunning homes, with architecture inspired by its Omani roots. All the materials used were delivered by sea, as there were no roads when the resort was built. This method of delivery also enabled the developers to preserve the nature and wildlife that surrounds the site, thereby adhering to the entire ethos of Barr Al Jissah. This is especially

evident when you walk out to the garden of the prestigious cliff-top villas on the estate; the views that greet you are breath-taking. There is no better way to wake up every morning than to look out of your bedroom window onto the sparkling and pristine Sea of Oman – it will certainly put a smile on your face. Each villa has an amazing pool, which adds to the tranquillity of the resort. The six-bedroom villa that we explored has an amazing double-height entrance area and stunning views of the bay. The entire downstairs living space has views of the ocean and during our stay we were fortunate enough to catch the spectacular sunset. And what a sunset! These villas also boast an impressive seven bathrooms, two living areas and a huge open-plan kitchen – ideal for social gatherings and entertaining. In each bedroom you'll find built-in cupboards and ample storage.

The plan for this community of villas and townhouses is to keep them exclusive. So if you want something that very few people have got, this is the place to be seen. With spacious living spaces and beautiful views of the sea and mountains, it's easy to see why lots of people will want to call Barr Al Jissah home.

www.barraljissah.com



"The entire downstairs living space has views of the ocean."





Ask an Expert

THIS MONTH: WINDOW DRESSING
ANWAR SELO FROM SEDAR



WHAT ARE THE TOP WINDOW DRESSING TRENDS FOR 2015?

The trend in 2015 is going more towards the simple and motorised designs, whether curtains or blinds.

WHAT'S THE BEST TYPE OF WINDOW DRESSING FOR A FAMILY KITCHEN?

This depends mainly on the kitchen design, however, blackout roller blinds usually look good. Also, if the window is away from the heat or any fire, you can use wooden blinds, which give a natural look to the room.

HOW CAN I INJECT

SOME COLOUR INTO A ROOM WITH A WINDOW DRESSING?

Try to match the window dressing colour with the furniture and decoration. It will give a stronger sense of the colour. Also, there is a different approach that some people prefer, which is having a different colour for the window dressing than the furniture, like leather furniture and wooden blinds.

WHAT'S A GOOD LOOK FOR THE KID'S BEDROOM, WHICH WON'T DATE?

Roman blinds with colourful designs and patterns.

WHAT'S THE BEST ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCT THAT YOU HAVE?

Sunscreen roller blinds that are anti-bacterial and fire-retardant.

HOW CAN I CREATE A MODERN LOOK WITH WINDOW DRESSING?

I can simply say, a plain curtain in one colour.



EMIRATES home MARKETPLACE

YOUR ULTIMATE HOME SHOPPING GUIDE



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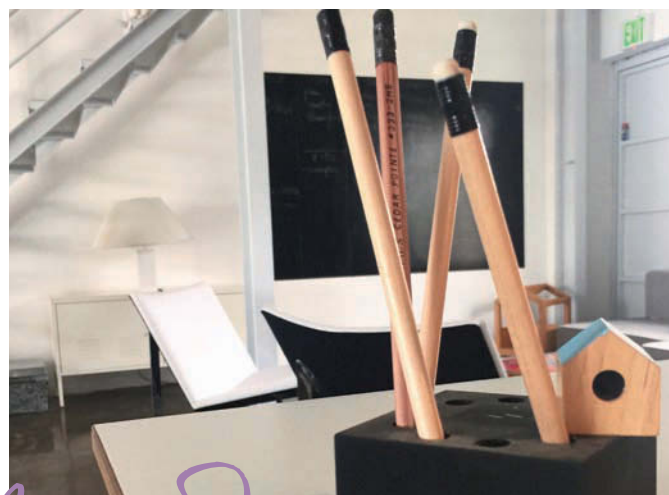
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My Space

MARIE LAURENT

FROM MARIE LAURENT ARCHITECTURE

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE IN THE BUSINESS?

I'm an interior architect and I founded Marie Laurent Architecture. We're currently based in Al Quoz in a warehouse I renovated in order to represent the company's design approach. I'm hugely involved with every aspect of my business, from meeting with contractors and suppliers through to the creative and execution of all projects. I have always been attentive to detail, so becoming an architect was just meant to be. It feels so natural to me, I'm so lucky to be doing something on a daily basis which I'm truly passionate and excited about.

TELL US ABOUT THE IDEA BEHIND THE BRAND

The idea behind the brand is to create beautiful architecture that is simple, with an emphasis on quality and clarity; producing designs that are functional and timeless. Architecture should be beautiful, should be true, should be simple, and should be safe. Our portfolio includes the three main

sectors of residential, commercial, and hospitality projects.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR OWN PERSONAL INTERIOR STYLE?

Contemporary, minimalist and simple. For the warehouse I wanted to create an environment that appreciated space, and showcased what I do as an interior architect. Space is luxury to me and I wanted to fashion an area where I can work comfortably and find my creativity for other projects. The idea behind my designs is to express modernity with a creative spirit.

FAVOURITE ARTWORK?

The artwork at the warehouse is a series of pictures of old doors I took when I first came to Dubai. They're simply mounted on paper and fixed to the wall. The photos remind me of authenticity, traditions, craftsmanship and simplicity.

ANY INTERIOR BRANDS FROM THE WAREHOUSE YOU

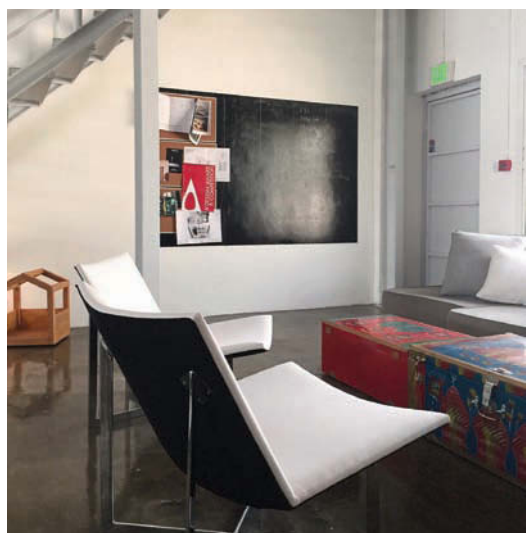
WOULD LIKE TO MENTION?

Most of the furniture in the warehouse has been custom-made for a bespoke approach, this is what I do for most spaces I design in order to have pieces fit perfectly in the space and an atmosphere created. The round coffee tables are from Flexform, an Italian brand whose design I truly appreciate; mounted on wheels they are also used as trunks.

The construction cone designed by Flos is one of my favorite pieces, very on point for a construction company! Lighting has always been essential for me, I like to play with table lighting as an accessory.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOUR BUSINESS/YOU?

We're busy with the opening of new developments in Dubai Design District for offices and Al Serkal for galleries and new concepts including Wild and the Moon Juice bar. We're also working on a bespoke line of furniture. As well as this we are developing the With our Pet project, which has just won the A design award.



DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: *French, Minimal, Relaxed*

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